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TAGS: [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [PREL](#) [MEDIA](#) [REACTION](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION IRAN US-PERUVIAN FTA US
SPEAKER DAVID PALMER 04/13/06

11. SUMMARY STATEMENT

Today's most important international stories include the USG asking for "tough measures" against Iran, which has announced plans to obtain industrial-scale enriched uranium; and the signature of an FTA between the US and Peru despite Humala's opposition. Conservative "La Prensa" carries an interview with US speaker David Palmer, professor of International Relations at the University of Boston, Massachusetts.

12. OPINION PIECES AND KEY STORIES

- "Increasing alarm due to Irania nuclear plan"

Daily-of-record "La Nacion" (04/13) reports "One day after having announced that it started to manufacture enriched uranium, Iran took one more step and said it is determined to make progress on the manufacture of industrial-scale enriched uranium..."

"The Iranian statement drew the condemnation of the international community and increased the high degree of world alarm unleashed by the controversial Iranian nuclear plan. Tehran asserted that its initiative has peaceful purposes and it is only trying to supply local nuclear facilities with energy, but the US and the EU believe that this is only a 'mask' to proceed with the manufacture of WMD.

"... US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged the UN Security Council to take 'strong measures' against Tehran. She added 'The time for action has come.'"

- "Washington asks the UN to implement tough measures against Iran"

Conservative "La Prensa" reports (04/13) "One day after the Iranian regime announced it obtained enriched uranium, the US asked the UN to implement 'strong measures' against Iran, which could include diplomatic sanctions.

"US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that the Iranian statement that the country successfully completed the production cycle for nuclear energy has proven that the international community's requisites remain ignored and this warrants a response from the UN Security Council.

"The USG official clarified that 'what is at issue is not Iran's right to civil nuclear power' but

international opinion that the country should not have either the capability or the technology required to manufacture nuclear weapons.

"The UK Government also expressed its 'serious concern' about the Iranian announcement, 'which is contrary to the International Atomic Energy Agency's requirements.'"

- "Toledo signs an FTA with the US"

Conservative "La Prensa" reports (04/13) "Yesterday, the US and Peru signed an FTA, which both governments say will lead to increasing prosperity for the two countries.

"Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo witnessed the signature of an FTA at the OAS between USTR Rob Portman and Peruvian Trade Minister Alfredo Ferrero Diez Canseco.

"During a press conference, Toledo said 'The only thing I, as an economist, can say is that the (US/Peruvian) FTA will lead to the creation of more jobs.'

"... Toledo added that he is 'realistically optimistic' that the Peruvian Congress will ratify the treaty before the end of his term in office, July 8."

- "Toledo signs an FTA with the US and Humala complains about it"

Ana Baron, Washington-based correspondent for leading "Clarín," writes (04/13) "Amid a complicated election

process, Peru signed yesterday an FTA with the US, even though Ollanta Humala, the winner of the first round of presidential elections..., said he is totally against it.

"... After having signed the deal, Toledo said 'This is a historic milestone,' and he added 'Without this treaty, the next president will not be able to fulfill his election promises' to create jobs for the poor.

"... Ollanta Humala urged Toledo not to sign the treaty up until the last minute... His party, Union por el Peru (UPP), stated that if the treaty is signed and Humala wins runoff elections, he will call a referendum.

"According to the UPP coordinator of the economic committee, Felix Jimenez, the FTA 'affects (Peruvian) national sovereignty' and was negotiated 'without the people's support.'"

- "Toledo's bequest, an FTA with the US, which Humala questions and Garcia not so much"

Carlos Noriega, on special assignment in Lima for left-of-center "Página 12," writes (04/13) "One day after the overwhelming election defeat last Sunday, in which his political party did not obtain one single representative for Congress, President Alejandro Toledo speeded up the signature of an FTA with the US. His legacy threatens to turn into a point of political and social contention for the next president. Toledo had to travel to Washington in order to sign a controversial FTA at the OAS headquarters. Ollanta Humala, the winner of the first round in Peruvian elections, said he disagrees with this treaty and he also added that if he takes over, he will use 'all constitutional means' to review this trade deal. One of the ways would be to call a referendum so that the people can decide whether to approve or reject the treaty."

- "A Boston expert believes the '90s model still prevails"

Agustin de Beitia, international columnist of conservative "La Prensa," writes (04/13) "The reforms of the '90s were positive for entire Latin America because they strengthened trade and reduced poverty, and there is no government in the region that has changed that model, not even Argentina's Nestor Kirchner. This remark, which challenges the current trend in the discussion, was made by US academic David Palmer, professor of International Relations at the University of Boston, Massachusetts, and consultant to the US Department of State.

"During a press meeting at the US Embassy in Buenos Aires, Palmer sustained in perfect Spanish that the tilt to the left that is being observed in Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Bolivia, and 'soon in Mexico,' is rhetorical rather than practical."

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